1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

rubles a year; and here they cannot maintain and cloath themſelves for leſs than 40.

CHAP. VII.

Of their TRADE.

ALTHOUGH from the very beginning ſome people went along with the tax-gatherers, who carried little trifles to diſpoſe of among the natives, theſe people could not be called merchants, becauſe they did duty in the ſame manner as the Coſſacks. By degrees many of them got themſelves enrolled under that name, on paying the poll-tax, and as ſuch ſettled with their families in theſe places; but the true merchants began to bring conſiderable quantities of goods firſt to *Ochotſka*, and then to *Kamtſchatka*, at the time when the ſecond expedition to *Kamtſchatka* took place. The number of the people increaſing made the demand greater; and their profits were ſo conſiderable, that ſeveral, who came out of *Ruſſia* as common labourers, in ſix or ſeven years began to trade for 15000 rubles or more: but, on the other hand, ſome were ruined from their extraordinary gains, which led them into various ſorts of luxury and extravagance: and thoſe merchants particularly who ſent factors thither run the greateſt riſk; however, the principals had the ſatisfaction to find that the government took care to ſee juſtice done them.

After the expedition to *Kamtſchatka* the trade began to be upon another footing, the officers and ſervants in this expedition buying their goods of the merchants for ready money; whereas they were obliged to give the inhabitants credit 'till they returned from their travelling among the *Kamtſchadales*, when they were paid

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

paid in furrs of different ſorts. In fine, the exchange of goods with the *Kamtſchadales* and *Chineſe* is ſo profitable, that, notwithſtanding all expences occaſioned by the diſtance, dearneſs of tranſport, and other difficulties, we may reckon that a 1000 rubles will produce 4000, provided they remain but one year in *Kamtſchatka*; but if they remain longer, there is a conſiderable loſs. The reaſons of this are, firſt, that upon their arrival, being flattered with the high prices of things, they ſell every thing, even their own cloaths and proviſions, hoping ſoon to leave the country, in which if diſappointed, they are obliged to buy them back again at double price: ſecondly, that the furrs by lying, loſe their colour and value: thirdly, that the place is exceſſively expenſive in regard to lodging, warehouſe-room, victuals, and ſeveral other particulars.

Goods demanded in *Kamtſchatka*, beſides the natural produce of *Ruſſia*, are *European* goods, from *Siberia*, *Boharia*, and the *Calmuks*. From *Europe* they receive coarſe cloaths of various colours, linen, ſerges, knives, ſilk and cotton handkerchiefs, red wine, a little ſugar, tobacco, and ſeveral toys. From *Siberia*, iron, ſeveral iron and copper veſſels, and inſtruments, ſuch as knives, hatchets, ſaws, and fire-ſteels; alſo wax, hemp, yarn for nets, tanned deer-ſkins, coarſe *Ruſſian* linen and cloth. From *Boharia*, and the country of the *Calmuks*, they bring ſeveral different ſorts of cotton goods. From *China*, ſeveral ſilk and cotton ſtuffs, tobacco, coral, and needles, which are much preferred to thoſe from *Ruſſia*. From the *Koreki* they receive great quantities of rein-deer-ſkins, both dreſſed and undreſſed, which they may ſell in what quantities they pleaſe at any time. Merchants muſt take care not to have too great a ſtock of any other goods; for the inhabitants of this place, *Ruſſians* as well as natives, never buy any thing before they are in abſolute want of it, even if they could buy it at half price.

The

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

441 The goods ſold at *Kamtſchatka* at prime-coſt ſcarcely exceed 10 or 12,000 rubles, but the ſales amount to 30 or 40,000 rubles; and if a merchant carries theſe *Kamtſchatka* goods to the fair upon the frontiers of *China*, he may receive double the price he buys them at; ſo that this commerce may eaſily appear to be very advantageous.

439 651 437 The goods that are brought out of *Kamtſchatka* conſiſt of furrs, ſuch as ſea beavers', ſables', foxes', and a few otters' ſkins. As there was formerly no money in this country, the way of trading was in exchange for furrs; and now they have money, they fix the price by the ſkins, reckoning a good fox-ſkin at a ruble. All goods brought out of *Kamtſchatka* pay 10 per cent. duty, but the ſables 12.

CHAP. VIII.

000 ### *The Different* ROADS *between* Jakutſki *and* Kamtſchatka.

THOUGH it may at firſt appear needleſs to mention all the different roads to *Kamtſchatka*, eſpecially as ſeveral of them are now no more uſed, yet, upon due conſideration it will be found to ſerve for an illuſtration of the different ſettlements of the *Ruſſian* colonies, and to ſhew what people are ſubject and pay taxes to each of theſe ſettlements. It will alſo explain the manner of reducing theſe people and making them tributary, and deſcribe the difficulties of this journey, although there had been no danger from an enemy, in which the tax-gatherers were continually expoſed to hunger and cold in an unknown country, whereby many of them loſt their lives. The Coſſacks were only able to make this journey

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

133 between the hills, rises the snowy cone of Koriatska; and the store-
361 house of the Alaska Commercial Company, painted the dull Indian
103 red that is so favourite a shade throughout Sweden, forms a
609 pleasing patch of colour in the foreground. It did not take us long to make acquaintance with Petropaulovsky, in spite of its imposing name. The inhabitants, we found, called it Petropaulsk, and, in short, showed every disposition to make things easy for their visitors. Salmon and bilberries were sent off to us, and, on our remarking upon the presence of cows, a supply of cream and
441 butter was not long in following. Society here is limited, the
643 Europeans being but eight or ten in number. Mr. Lugobil, the
563 local head of the Alaska Commercial Company, resides here, and
712 superintends the shipping of the sealskins from Bering and Copper
R Islands; as does Captain Hunter, the cheery agent of Phillippeus
177 and Company, another firm of fur-traders. Of stores (the American
.64 term is in use here) there are but two. One of them was owned by a kindly old Swede, who also acted in the capacity of Mayor. He had not visited his native land for thirty years, and it was evidently a source of the keenest pleasure to him to talk of it to one of us who knew it, and loved it almost as much as he did himself. The town is now no longer a military post, and the barracks and fortifications, razed to the ground by the English in 1855, have never been rebuilt. The entire authority is vested in the Ispravnik, whom, in spite of the exigencies of his profession, we did not find averse to the seductions of trade. A Russo-American Jew, better known as the King of Kamschatka, of whom the Russian Government was extremely anxious to get rid, completed, with Dr. Dybowski, the list of Europeans of the sterner sex. The ladies were only four in number.

757 With Dr. Dybowski, who has acquired a European fame as a
115 naturalist, it was a pleasure to make acquaintance. His life had
R been an eventful one. Imprisoned in Siberia for some time for taking
177 part in the Polish insurrection, he had eventually been pardoned
.75 and made government doctor of Kamschatka, in which capacity he

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

651 sum of money to pay travelling expenses, it seems
661 very strange that such money is not paid to these
563 poor people. As little can I understand why a post
R should travel gratis: surely the poorest and most
177 distant part of the Russian empire, should not be
.66 oppressed in such a manner. It is true, the sum paid by the government to officers when travelling is small, as well as that paid to the postillion when in charge of the post; but small as it is in itself, it would be acceptable to those to whom it would appear much. As to officers' travelling, for which there is no public necessity, they can at best but reap the advantages belonging to the fair trader, who is not inconsiderably taxed. I have heard an officer of high rank assert, that every voyage from Kamtchatka to Okotsk and back again, was worth ten thousand roubles, or five hundred pounds; and I believe he spoke the truth.

661 With respect to the pedlers, here denominated
183 merchants, they in truth ought to be taxed severe-
435 ly, as well in regard to the goods they bring as
441 the price at which they are sold, the articles being
563 such as are of light burthen, or will return the greatest profit. The ignorance of the aborigines is such, and their thoughtlessness of the future so great, that they prefer present luxuries to future
661 necessities. The quantity of articles hawked about
437 by the merchants consists of tobacco, spirits, silks,
439 tea, sugar, nankeen, and cotton handkerchiefs.
441 Every Kamtchatdale keeps open house, and upon
563 the arrival of a Russian his door is held open, the

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

661 owner standing by it uncovered, and awaiting the
437 entry of his noble guest, who, making an obeisance
439 to the kasaika or landlady, passes on to the most
441 comfortable part of the dwelling, and divesting
563 himself of the unwieldy clothing so necessary in this part of the world, calls for dinner or supper as the time may be, orders food for his dogs, eats and drinks well, has a bed prepared for him, and takes breakfast, consisting of fine game, fish, and the like. The intermediate time is employed in extorting three or four hundred per cent. profit for his goods, and the only remuneration to his host is a glass of spirits or a leaf of tobacco, in some cases not even a "thank ye," although stress of weather has, unfortunately for them, detained him to partake of their hospitality for a week or more.

Were the merchants compelled to take more woollens and linens, some flour or oatmeal, with a sufficient quantity of axes, knives, kettles, twine, nets, and other implements of great necessity, there would be less objection to their proceeding round the Peninsula, and less inducement for officers to do so. Tobacco, it is true, is an article of great demand as well as of great necessity; tea and sugar are also in considerable demand, though, probably, too much money is lavished upon both these articles, by the Kamtchatdales; as also upon silks, nankeens, and fine cottons. A great benefit would arise from the establishment of a general fair in Kamtchatka, to be held at St. Peter and St. Paul's, as well as from two or three provincial fairs to be held upon a certain day at certain places.